BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

JULY 23, 1996

IN RE: EAS Between Communities of Liberty) ORDER GRANTING and Greenville.) EAS REQUEST

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a request filed requesting toll free service (also known as Extended Area Service or "EAS") between the communities of Liberty and Greenville. The affected telephone utility is BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth). Upon receipt of the request for EAS, the Commission instructed the Commission Staff to require BellSouth to perform Community of Interest and cost studies.

BellSouth duly filed its Community of Interest and cost studies with the Commission concerning the request. The cost studies indicated that in order to provide the proposed EAS, Liberty subscribers, both residential and business, would incur an additional monthly adder of \$3.44.

The Commission then instructed the Staff to poll the residents of the Liberty Exchange affected by the proposed EAS. For the Liberty calling area, the Commission mailed 3,357 ballots. Of these, 1,117 were returned; 741 ballots favored the EAS, and 386 ballots opposed it.

At first, it appeared to this Commission that there was little interest in the establishment of the EAS, since only some 22% of the Liberty subscribers voted in favor of it. Based upon those results, the Commission, at first denied the EAS request.

Subsequently, however, this Commission has received numerous complaints about this denial, with specific reference to this Commission's denial, based on a reference to the small overall response rate to the balloting. It has been pointed out that a large majority of those persons responding to the balloting favored the EAS. Based on this result, we hereby grant reconsideration of our original decision, and approve the EAS between the cities of Liberty and Greenville.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chairman

ATTEST:

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(SEAL)